(c) whether any inquiry has been set-up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In this accident, 22 persons lost their lives and 62 sustained injuries.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Western Circle.

Increase in the wholesale prices of commodities

581. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to arrest the spiralling rise in prices of all commodities; and

(b) what is the percentage increase of wholesale prices from March, 1988 to March, 1989 and from March, 1989 to March, 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices particularly of the essential commodities. Both long-term and short-term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken by the Government include measures on broad macro-economic front such as reduction in money supply and fiscal discipline and specific measures to check rise in prices of selected essential commodities. The main steps that have been taken are incentives to increase the production of essential commodities (e.g. sugar); effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System; monitoring of prices and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) wherever necessary subject to over all consideration of foreign exchange constraints.

(b) A Statement showing the percentage variation in the prices of essential commodities during the period March, 1988 to March, 1989 and March, 1989 to March, 1990 is given in Statement.

Statement

Percentage variation in the prices of Essential Commodities (March, 1988 to March, 1989 and March, 1989 to March, 1990.)

Commodity	Percentage Variation	
	March, 90 March, 89	March, 89 March, 88
1	2	3
Rice	+1.3	+6.8
Wheat	−15.9	+11.4
Jowar	−16.2	+42.4
Bajra	+1.7	−20.2
Gram	−8.6	+55.3
Arhar	+27.3	−18.3
Moong	+0.3	+13.4
Masur	−0.6	+32.9
Urad	+16.5	+19.8
Potatoes	+10.9	+10.6
Onions	−12.3	−19.3
Milk	+3.6	+14.2
Fish	+10.1	+3.0
Mutton	+6.1	+7.7
Chillies (Dry)	−47.3	+56.0
Tea	+40.3	+32.6
Kerosene	Steady	Steady
Atta	−0.8	+26.8
Sugur	+10.4	+5.6
Gur	+14.8	+21.0
Salt	+18.2	+22.4
Vanaspati	+13.5	+1.6
Gingelly oil	+40.5	−16.9
Mustard oil	+14.8	−17.3
Coconut oil	−7.0	−15.6
Groundnut oil	+35.4	−18.9
Cottoncloth (Mills)	+14.6	+4.1

1	2	3
Household Laundry Soap	+2.7	−0.9
Toilet Soap	Steady	−5.6
Safety Matches	+26.0	−8.7
Cement	+13.9	+8.5
ALL COMMODITIES	+8.6	+5.4

Cultivation of Soyabean

582. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase the cultivation of Soyabean in order to meet the edible oil deficit in the country;

(b) whether Government also propose to give support price for Soyabean;

(c) the quality of Soyabean produced per year in the country and what is the proposal to increase the production; and

(d) whether Government would take any steps to develop the technologies, processes, and equipment for commercial users of Soyabean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, the Oilseed Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in Soyabean growing States to increase its production.

(b) Soyabean is covered under price support policy of the Government and minimum support price is announced every year.

(c) The production of Soyabean has been as below:

Year	Production (Lakh Tonnes)
1986-87	8.91
1987-88	8.98
1988-89	15.00
1989-90 (Provisional)	17.00

Under OPP, financial assistance is provided to the States for increasing production of Soyabean through the supply of critical inputs 7 farmers' support services.

(d) In addition to the modern technology made available for processing of Soyabean commercially, Government have allowed the import and transfer of latest expender technology for the preparation of materials from Soyabean efficiently.

Mortgage Insurance Scheme

583. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce mortgage insurance scheme in the Housing Sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In order to promote larger finance for housing activity in the country, it has been felt necessary to provide an insurance cover to the lender against non-repayment by the borrower by a suitable mortgage insurance scheme. An indication to this effect has also been given in the draft National Housing Policy, already circulated for public debate.

Supply of edible oil to Orissa

584. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil supplied to Orissa during the month of December, 1989 to June, 1990;

(b) what is the total requirement of edible oil of the State per month;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to short supply of edible oil its price is increasing; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The quantity of imported oil allocated to and lifted by the Orissa